

### MMM, MMM BAD HEALTH CARE POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for 2 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, Republicans in the House will once again bring up a repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

We've seen a lot of repeal from them, but not as much with respect to their so-called plan to replace. I think I've figured out what the GOP wants to replace the Affordable Care Act with.

Here is what I assume must be the Republican plan for health care in our country: chicken noodle soup. Chicken noodle soup? Many of our mothers and grandmothers have told us that chicken noodle soup is a cure-all for anything, but I think the Republican plan takes Grandma at her word a little too literally.

Can't afford health care coverage and need medical care? Have some chicken noodle soup. Have you been diagnosed with a serious disease and can't afford the prescription drugs you need to treat it? Have some chicken noodle soup. At least you can rely on good old-fashioned chicken noodle soup. Have a preexisting condition like diabetes that lets your insurance company deny you coverage? That's okay. Have some chicken noodle soup and you'll feel better in the morning.

The truth is, it won't be all better in the morning. That's why we enacted the Affordable Care Act, to ensure that people could get the affordable, quality coverage they need; that seniors can afford their prescription medications; and that an insurance company can no longer deny you coverage because you have a preexisting condition.

I don't know why Republicans want to go back to the day when chicken noodle soup was the only option for hardworking families who couldn't afford care. The truth is, chicken noodle soup might be mmm, mmm good for lunch, but as a health care policy, it is mmm, mmm bad.

### LET'S STOP THE POSTURING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for 3 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, we have heard hours of impassioned speeches on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, most defending all or nothing, and pitting us against them. But the American people aren't interested in the politics. They want us to focus on what we can do moving forward to make good health care more affordable for them without breaking the bank.

I believe the ACA is flawed, and I parted ways with the majority of my Democratic colleagues in voting against it in 2010. As I said then, "The bill does not do enough to lower the skyrocketing costs of health care, cuts more than \$400 billion from Medicare, is not fiscally sustainable over the

long-term, and breaks with the status quo by allowing Federal funding for abortion and abortion coverage."

But we all agree there are good provisions. The bill expanded access to care and improved health insurance by doing things such as prohibiting discrimination based on preexisting conditions and extending family coverage to children up to the age of 26. Why, then, are we being asked to blindly throw out the good with the bad, or alternatively, to simply let the law stand with no changes at all?

A few months after I voted against the ACA, in a town hall meeting in Hickory Hills, I was asked by an opponent of the law if I would vote to repeal it. I said, "No. We need a fix, not a repeal that would take us back to the status quo." He said, "Okay. Repeal and replace. Keep the good parts, and make other necessary changes."

I agreed, and that's exactly what I have been working to do. I helped pass into law a bill to repeal the burdensome 1099 requirement for small businesses and helped introduce and pass legislation to repeal the ACA's CLASS Act program, which would have added tens of billions of dollars to the deficit. In addition, I worked to pass legislation to ensure that no taxpayer money is spent for abortion under the law, and I continue to fight against portions of the HHS mandate that violate Americans' religious liberty.

At the start of this Congress, I hoped we could work on major fixes to the health care law. Instead, a bill was brought to the floor in January 2011 which would have eliminated the entire law with no exceptions. I opposed that bill. I voted for a resolution instructing four House committees to develop replacement legislation. Yet, 18 months later, there still is no replacement. Instead, we're again voting on a repeal, period. And once again, we all know this bill will pass the House and die in the Senate.

A Chicago Tribune editorial recently stated: "If Democrats want to save the ambitions of this law, they're going to have to find a way to write a Truly Affordable Care Act." And the Tribune concluded that Republicans "ought to engage Democrats in a real effort to contain the costs before the law takes full effect in 2014." I wholeheartedly agree.

Let's stop the posturing, roll up our sleeves, and work to make health care more affordable for all Americans in a fiscally sound manner. That is what the American people want us to do. That is what we need to do.

### REPEAL OF THE ACA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) for 3 minutes.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe we are asked for a 31st time to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

This isn't just a policy issue. This is a moral test. This is one of the great

moral tests of our time. Those who vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act are failing that moral test. They are utterly failing that test.

Paying health insurance premiums and other health care bills has become very difficult for American families. Premiums have gone up each year and the cost of health care has escalated. Insurance companies have shifted costs to consumers through increases in deductibles and copayments and decreases in covered services. Low- and middle-income families need relief from skyrocketing health care costs.

The constitutional ACA provides real relief to American families. First, the Affordable Care Act provides direct financial relief to millions of insured American families that struggle to pay health insurance premiums today. The new law allows families to shop for a plan in new State insurance exchanges and allows them to receive a big discount on their premiums.

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The ACA protects people from high deductibles, high copayments, and unexpected gaps in their insurance coverage in three ways. It eliminates lifetime and annual limits on how much an insurance plan will pay for covered benefits. That means payments won't suddenly run out. It caps how much a person must spend each year on deductibles and copayments for covered benefits. That means that families won't be forced to lose their homes because they get sick. And it provides additional help with out-of-pocket costs for lower-income families.

Second, the ACA expands the affordable insurance options to families who could not afford coverage before. Medicaid will now be available to families at or lower than the 133 percent of the Federal poverty level. For people with incomes above that level and up to 400 percent of poverty, new premium tax credits will help them afford coverage. Reducing the number of uninsured will help reduce the "hidden health tax" that is imposed on insured families. We all pay higher premiums to pay for the care of the uninsured.

Third, the Affordable Care Act will slow the growth of underlying health care costs and help all Americans.

As I have said on this floor before, the ACA is the greatest improvement in women's health in decades. Under the ACA, millions of women are gaining access to affordable health care coverage. Women will not have to pay more than men for the same insurance policy, and women will not be denied coverage because they are sick or have preexisting conditions. Women will be guaranteed preventive services, such as mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, with no deductibles or copays.

Senior women will have access to coordinated care.

Senior women will save thousands of dollars as reform closes the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap.